



File Code: 2210/2230-3

Date: May 4, 2009

Dale Anderson
Box 558
Fort Duchesne, UT 84026

Dear Dale and Glenna,

This letter references the annual meeting held on March 16, 2009, with you, Raymond Terry, Carol Gardiner, Richie Anderson, and Aaron Zobell concerning your grazing on the Lewis-Allen Allotment. This letter will serve as your 2009 Operating Instructions and will become part of your term grazing permit as provided for in Part 1, Item 3 and Part 2, item 8(a) of your term grazing permit.

Please note situations may develop during the grazing season which you feel may require changes to these instructions. If you believe this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact Aaron Zobell and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions. Your 2009 operating instructions are as follows:

Lewis-Allen Allotment

| <u>Numbers</u> | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 42 Pair | Alabama Flat Unit | May 23 – May 31 |
| 42 Pair | North Unit | June 1 – July 28 |
| 42 Pair | South Unit | July 29 – Sept. 30 |

Only livestock branded according to the Certificate of Registrations provided by you to the Forest Service will be allowed to graze on the allotment. Confirmation of payment through the “lock box” process must be received before livestock will be allowed to graze on National Forest lands.

You plan to unload your livestock at the State (UDWR) property and then drive your livestock to the Alabama Flat unit where your cows will stay until utilization benchmarks have been met or the 31st of May, whichever occurs first. Grazing the Alabama Flat unit will not occur as an on/off unit this year because you will not be leasing the Trail Creek Ranch. However, I will allow your cattle to graze this unit this year on a trial basis and in future years if you meet the following conditions:

- Utilization benchmarks for the Lewis-Allen Allotment described in table 1.0 are not exceeded.
- Streambank alterations on Trail Creek and Skull Creek are less than or equal to 20 percent.



- Woody species along Trail Creek and Skull Creek are not more than lightly browsed by cattle.
- Cattle must be confined to the Alabama Flat unit from 24st May – 31st May. Cattle will not be allowed within the North or South units before the proposed days on your AOI. You are responsible for doing fence maintenance necessary to ensure your cattle remain on the Alabama Flat unit and do not enter other portions of the allotment during the time they are suppose to be in the Alabama Flat unit.

I will not allow grazing the Alabama Flat unit to occur in the future if you do not meet the conditions above. However, if I find that you are successful in meeting these conditions, than I will continue to allow this use to occur with the possibility of increasing the amount of use in this area should upland and riparian monitoring show such an increase is warranted.

On June 1st your livestock will move into the North unit. Grazing will occur in the North unit until utilization benchmarks have been met or until July 28th, whichever occurs first. On July 28th your livestock will move to the South unit. Cattle should be removed from the allotment when either utilization benchmarks have been met in the South unit or by the 30th of September, whichever occurs first. The gathering of livestock in preparation for the trip home should occur near the Swett Ranch while actual loading of livestock will occur just east of the Swett Ranch.

Utilization benchmarks for the Lewis-Allen Allotment are presented below in table 1.0. Utilization will generally be monitored at key areas of the allotment. Key areas are those areas of the allotment most preferred by livestock and are typically grazed first and receive the most concentrated use. Cattle will be removed from each unit before utilization benchmarks are exceeded. Cattle will be removed from National Forest lands when utilization benchmarks have been met at key areas in the South unit or by the off date for the allotment, whichever comes first. It is the permittees' responsibility to ensure utilization benchmarks shown in table 1.0 are not exceeded. The proposed grazing schedule and utilization benchmarks listed above are per the 2009 Allotment Management Plan for the Lewis Allen Allotment. Every effort must be taken to completely remove cattle off the National Forest by the scheduled off date. For example, if it requires three days of riding to gather your cattle, then you should start riding three days prior to your scheduled off date.

Table 1.0 Utilization and Residual Stubble Height Benchmarks for the Lewis-Allen Allotment

| Utilization Benchmarks | Alabama Flat | North Unit | South Unit |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Utilization-by key species | <50% | <50% | <50% |
| Residual Stubble Height | >4 inches | >4 inches | >4 inches |

Equal utilization of the range is the objective. This requires riding and salting be properly conducted throughout the entire grazing season. Rotate your salting areas during the grazing season and from year to year. Place your salt in good forage producing areas where the cattle do not go by preference. Do not place your salt next to water, roads, trails, or in open meadows. Cattle need to be kept in their appropriate units, properly distributed within those units, and moved from unit to unit as needed. It is especially important that cattle be kept in the unit they are supposed to be in and that an even distribution of your cattle be maintained while in a unit, since any area reaching

proper utilization means it is time to move into the next unit or to come home. Each permittee is responsible for keeping cattle spread out and not over utilizing the range.

Please remember maintenance of all your improvements must be done one week before cattle enter the allotment and maintenance needs to be completed to the standards listed in your permit. Completing your maintenance responsibilities one week before your on date will allow Aaron time to inspect your improvements and address any concerns before your cattle enter the allotment. This should help prevent some of the issues we ran into last year regarding fence maintenance adjacent to the UDWR lands and Skull Creek. You are responsible to provide all materials and labor needed to complete this maintenance.

Highway safety remains a major concern for this allotment. The following strategies have been implemented as a result of this concern:

- Cattle are to be kept in the North unit until after the July 24th weekend. This reduces the likelihood cattle will be found on or in the vicinity of Highway 44 before the July 24th weekend. Successful implementation of this strategy may require extra riding and herding on your part. Please let Aaron know if you feel utilization standards will be exceeded as we approach the off date for the North unit.
- Five signs with flagging and flashers will be placed along Utah State Highway 44 and U.S. Highway 191 to warn oncoming motorists of the possibility of cattle on or in the vicinity of Highway 44. Signs will be put in place approximately three days before cattle are to enter the South unit, will be maintained during the time cattle are in the unit, and will be promptly removed after cattle are no longer on the allotment. One sign will be placed next to the Utah State Highway 44 before entering the allotment when traveling southbound and a second sign will be placed next to US Highway 191 traveling northbound just after turning onto this highway from Utah State Highway 44. Two signs will be placed next to US Highway 191 with one sign located at the north end of the allotment and the second located at the south end of the allotment. The fifth sign may be placed according to permittee preference. Permittees will need to work together in determining each other's responsibility for obtaining, setting up, maintaining, and removing signs.

Other Information:

- The Swett Ranch Portion of the Allotment will be grazed this year by Carol Gardiner. Please ensure your livestock do not enter this area of the allotment which is being managed under the 2009 Allotment Management Plan for the Swett Ranch Portion of the Lewis-Allen Allotment.
- Gate just east of highway on the Flaming Gorge Lodge/Cart Creek Fence (#001116): You are authorized to place a pole gate at the area where snowmobiles cross the fence as was discussed in the annual permittee meeting. Please work with the other permittee on the allotment in accomplishing this.
- End of season range ride: Permittees stated they would like to conduct a range ride at the end of the grazing season. Please contact Aaron at the end of the season to conduct this ride. Additionally, you requested a review of the Alabama unit after grazing has occurred. Please work with Aaron on scheduling a date for this.

Please keep track of the dates, numbers and any other facts that may be pertinent to your grazing on the allotment this year and let Aaron know as they occur. Note these items on the Grazing Use Record form attached below and return them to Aaron by the 31st of December.

We also need your help to control noxious weeds. By removing musk thistle seed heads before they flower and then cutting down the plant at its base, the spread of this plant can be controlled. We are especially concerned about Dyer's Woad and any other "new" weeds. Please let Aaron know of any new noxious weed infestations so we can keep them from becoming established.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Aaron Zobell at (435) 781-5279. Thanks for your help in managing the Lewis Allen Allotment. We are looking forward to a great year.

Sincerely,

ROWDY MUIR
Acting District Ranger

Enclosure (1)
2009 Grazing Use Record

2009 GRAZING USE RECORD
FLAMING GORGE RANGER DISTRICT

This form should be completed in detail, signed, and returned immediately following the grazing season to this office. Use back of sheet if necessary.

PERMITTEE _____

ALLOTMENT _____ YEAR _____

ACTUAL USE

| UNIT IN ORDER GRAZED | TOTAL LIVESTOCK NUMBERS | DATE ENTERED | DATE LEFT | DATE <u>ALL</u> LIVESTOCK REMOVED FROM UNIT | NOTES |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|-------|
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NOXIOUS WEEDS

| SPECIES | LOCATION | OTHER |
|---------|----------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

OTHER

Improvements maintained and/or visited

Improvements in need of repair

NOTES

SIGNATURE

DATE